

1     2. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 1 wherein said spilled material is mercury.

1     3. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 2 wherein said deformable substrate member  
2     with said coating of high affinity for said spilled material, is a structure of coated  
3     members taken from the group of a contacting quantity of particles, woven and matted  
4     filaments, metal powders and particle sponges.

1     4. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 3 wherein said deformable substrate member  
2     with said coating of high affinity for said spilled material, is a structure of coated metal  
3     members in at least one of particle or filamentary form and taken from the group of copper,  
4     zinc and silver.

1     5. (Canceled) The transfer tool of claim 4 wherein said coating of a material having a  
2     high affinity for said spilled material is gold.

1     6. (Canceled) In the transferring of spilled material through the use of an intermediate  
2     absorber member for the spilled material,  
3     the improvement comprising:  
4     a deformable absorber member in a form of at least one of a contacting quantity of  
5     particles and a filamentary arrangement and the interstices of said absorber being coated  
6     with a thin coating of a material having a high affinity for said spilled material.

1     7. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 6 wherein said spilled material is mercury.

1 8. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 7 wherein said material having a high affinity  
2 for said spilled material is gold.

1 9. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 8 wherein the material in said deformable  
2 absorber are of metal taken from the group of copper, zinc and silver.

1 10. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 9 wherein said deformable absorber is at least  
2 one braid of copper wires.

1 11. (Canceled) In the handling of spilled material through transfer from the spillage  
2 location, the improvement comprising:  
3 the use of a deformable absorber member with a thin surface coating of a material that  
4 has a high affinity for said spilled material.

1 12. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 11 wherein said deformable absorber member  
2 is at least one of a quantity of contacting particles and intertwined filaments that impart  
3 a wicking capability with respect to a spillage in liquid form.

1 13. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 12 wherein said deformable absorber  
2 member is at least one braid of woven copper wires.

1 14. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 13 wherein said deformable absorber  
2 member is contacting quantity of particles supported in an inert tubular holder.

1        15. (Canceled) The improvement of claim 12 wherein said spilled material is  
2        mercury and said elements of said deformable absorber member are coated with gold.

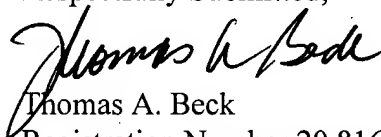
1   16. (Currently amended) A transfer hand tool for the collection and transporting of a quantity  
2   of spilled mercury from a spillage area comprising:  
3   a deformable absorber serving as a spillage area contacting member, said member being  
4   of a at least one material including selected from the group consisting of ~~from~~  
5   ~~the group consisting of~~ particles, woven filaments, metal powders and particle sponges, and,  
6   a coating of gold on said contacting member on at least a portion contacting said spillage  
7   area.

1   17. (Currently Amended) The process of collection and transporting of a quantity of  
1A   spilled mercury from  
2   a spillage area comprising the steps of: providing a deformable absorbable hand tool  
3   serving as a spillage area contacting member,  
4   said member being formed of a at least one material including selected from the group  
5   consisting of particles, woven and matted filaments, metal powders and particle  
6   sponges, and said member having a deformable region and a contacting region and  
7   having a coating of gold,  
8   positioning said member with said deformable area in contact with said spillage area,  
9   and, moving said member over said spillage area. --

If there are any charges associated with the filing of this response, the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account 50-0510. If required, Applicant hereby petitions for a one

A "Change of Correspondence Address" on behalf of the undersigned is enclosed. Please address all further correspondence to the undersigned at the address listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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I hereby certify that this paper is being mailed via the United States Postal Service, first class mail, on the date indicated below addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Signature  Date: October 14, 2004  
Thomas A. Beck